

FEBRUARY 28th, 1814.

Read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

A Bill

To provide for the payment of persons whose property may be impressed into the service of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in congress assembled, That*
3 any person whose property has been impressed into the pub-
4 lic service of the United States shall be allowed and paid the
5 full value thereof, in case the said property so impressed shall
6 not be restored to the owner or his representative; and in case
7 it shall be restored to the owner or his representative, there shall
8 be allowed and paid to him the full value of any injury which the
9 same may have sustained while in the public service, according
10 to, and under the rules and regulations hereinafter mentioned.

1 *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in substantiating claims*
2 against the United States, for articles impressed into the public

3 service, the following rules shall be complied with, that is to
 4 say: The impressment shall be made by the order of the com-
 5 manding officer of the post or detachment, who shall, at the time
 6 of such order, be in the service of the United States, agreeably
 7 to the rules and regulations of the department of war. The en-
 8 tire loss of the article so impressed, or the partial injury which
 9 it may have sustained, while in the public service, shall be cer-
 10 tified by the quartermaster of the detachment under oath, or by
 11 two other credible and competent witnesses. The claimant
 12 shall produce an appraisement made under oath before some per-
 13 son competent to administer the same; which appraisement shall
 14 be made by at least two persons, in nowise interested therein,
 15 whose credibility shall be certified by the person before whom
 16 such oath shall be administered. The said appraisement shall
 17 be made subsequent to the time of impressment, and previous
 18 to the employment of the article so impressed.

1 *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That this act shall have re-
 2 lation to, and be construed to be in force from the eighteenth
 3 day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve.